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THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

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SPASTICS NEWS



THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

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Front Cover

"The Affluent Society at Play" is what we have decided to call this pleasant painting by a pupil at the Delarue School.

Back Cover

Artist, journalist, lecturer, dress designer and now the Society's ambassador—Shirley Keene, returns to Australia for a working holiday 12 years and hundreds of friends after she first set out for England. She will give lectures and visit Spastic Centres in South Australia and represent the Society at the 7th Medical and Educational Conference of the Australian Cerebral Association at Brisbane, before returning in October.

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Editor: Eve Renshaw

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Why Groups?

by A. M. Frank, Chief Regional Officer

ALL men are weak, but some men are more weak than others. Our innate vanity would have us dispute this axiom, but in our hearts we must admit its truth. In the animal world, it is the weakest who go to the wall. Men, created in God's image and sharing His immortality, respect their fellow's dignity and try to help each other in the acceptance of His purpose and the realisation that true happiness can be found only in the denial of self. The humanist and the atheist who see nothing beyond the grave echo the faith of Christians in their limited aim of leaving this earth a slightly better place than when they entered it.

"Love" and "charity" are much debased words today: the latter seems doomed to mean the cold, impersonal, patronising doling out of money by the successful of this world to their less fortunate brethren, while the former is now almost entirely restricted in meaning to its physical expression. This is all wrong. They are noble words in sound and true sense; they merge into one another, linked by the concept of giving from within, of self-sacrifice or self denial for the good of others; they are inseparable and are each a condition of the other.

This is an imperfect world and each of us responds differently to that second great precept of charity—"Love thy neighbour as thyself", but whatever and however much we give to others, our giving is meritless and empty when it does not come from an understanding and therefore a loving heart.

The late '40's saw the first rays of hope creep over the horizon when parents learnt that something, at first a very little something, could be done for their spastic children. It was these parents, helped by a handful of enlightened sympathisers, who first went into action and we are not surprised to find them as the main founders and members of our early Groups. Without intending it, they did themselves a very good turn in uniting on behalf of their offspring; the realisation that others shared their bitter experiences helped to break down the isolation, built up through lack of information and through despair, in which they had previously lived; they found that those who had trod their path before could give them good advice, and that they in turn were able to help and advise those who followed, and in this way their load was lightened. They helped themselves in trying to help others—their handicapped children—but this was a happy result, not a purpose of their endeavours.

Expansion after Struggle

The activities of this Society, and of the Groups which had brought it into being, gradually aroused a sympathy and an interest which led many persons to participate in the work of helping spastic persons either by joining existing Groups, or by forming new Groups to give help where none had been given before. The number of Groups rose rapidly and today, 17 years after the founding of the first parents' group, and 11 years after the formation of this Society, there are over 130 affiliated Groups alive and very much kicking.

It was natural that parents should have played the largest part in forming the early Groups and in founding this Society,

but it was good that others who were not so deeply and so personally involved should come along to help and to strengthen the movement by their support. Parents could be, and were, tied to their own homes and to the care of their handicapped children so that most of them had very little free time to spare for the work of the Group. It did not follow that every parents' association contained persons of the right calibre and temperament to lead and organise them to the best effect; nor did it follow that every parents' association had within its ranks the persons best able to present their needs to the authorities and to the general public.

The opening of their doors to all those who wanted to help enriched Groups and gave them balance without weakening their resolve or their determination. It made them more efficient and consequently better able to deal with the problems which faced them. Today, the Groups which are composed only of parents of spastics can be counted on the fingers of one's two hands, while at the other extreme are but few Groups which include no spastic or parent of a spastic among their members. The large majority are a happy blend of parents and sympathisers, with practical experience, availability and ability, combined in fair proportions.

Groups' Role in the Society

Where do Groups fit into the overall picture? To begin with, they are the very backbone of the Society: it is they who nominate the large majority of the members of the Society, and it is these members to whom the Society's Executive Committee is answerable in conducting the Society's affairs and in forming its policy. Their task is to see that all the needs of spastic persons in their areas are met as fully as possible. This does not always mean the setting up of local centres, though the number of these is mounting rapidly. It does mean close liaison with the different specialised departments of the Society and with Local Authorities and Hospital Authorities to see that full use is made of existing facilities; it means also constant pressing for the provision of those facilities which have been shown to be needed as well as the seeking out and finding of spastics who are not already known to the Authorities or to the Society—and there are still far too many who do not know what help can be given them. It means drawing spastic people out of their shells to participate in social activities, to meet others, handicapped and normal, and to make friends so that loneliness is banished from their lives.

We—the Society and the Local Groups—all want to help the Spastic person towards normality, but our methods must accord with our means. To the Authorities and to the Society with their larger, though not limitless, resources can be left the complex and expensive processes. The help of Local Groups must take a simpler, but no less effective, form: it gains by being so very personal and spontaneous. We have come a long way over the past eleven years, but we are still far from the fulfilment of our ideal—to bring the spastic person to his rightful place among his fellows and to see that everything that is humanly possible is done to meet his needs.

Reflections of a Regional Officer

by Roland J. F. Whyte, North East Regional Officer

LONG before taking up my appointment as Regional Officer I read this magazine (at that time published in newspaper form) and followed the rapid momentum of the Society's growth. It was apparent then that enthusiasm abounded in all directions, and to this day it has never waned—on the contrary it has become an inherent quality associated with the Society and its staff. Without it we would stagnate.

The establishment of regions was programmed by the Society during its early days but unfortunately straitened finances delayed their introduction until 1956, when the North became the first region. It was envisaged that a policy of decentralisation would follow, but so far this idea has been only partly implemented because of the specialised nature of some aspects of our work.

Views differ on the question of further de-centralisation where possible—mine remain firmly in favour—and it will be interesting to see what the future holds. It would be most unnatural and a deterrent to progress not to have and hold personal views be they right or wrong. Nevertheless the immense value of regions and their contribution to the Society's administration and well-being has become an acknowledged fact. There has been a closer association of local Societies with resultant mutual benefit to all concerned.

Once a region emerges its presence gradually becomes known to both Voluntary and Statutory bodies, many of whom do not hesitate to ask for advice concerning spastics. Such enquiries are always welcomed because an integration of knowledge and co-operative effort in a particular area can prove most beneficial. The services offered by the Regional Office are very often the means of preventing, or at very least reducing delay which, in the case of parents requiring alleviation of their personal and confidential problems is of incalculable value. This is a service which can only be performed promptly on a regional basis.

I think it is true to say the job of a Regional Officer has something of an ambassadorial nature about it. He is called upon to perform a variety of tasks—"variety" is the operative word. To quote two extremes, I remember the occasion when an urgent call for help to prevent a threatened suicide was received, and at the other end of the scale when a gift of budgerigars was offered provided I could catch and cage them—a task on which I spent four hours!

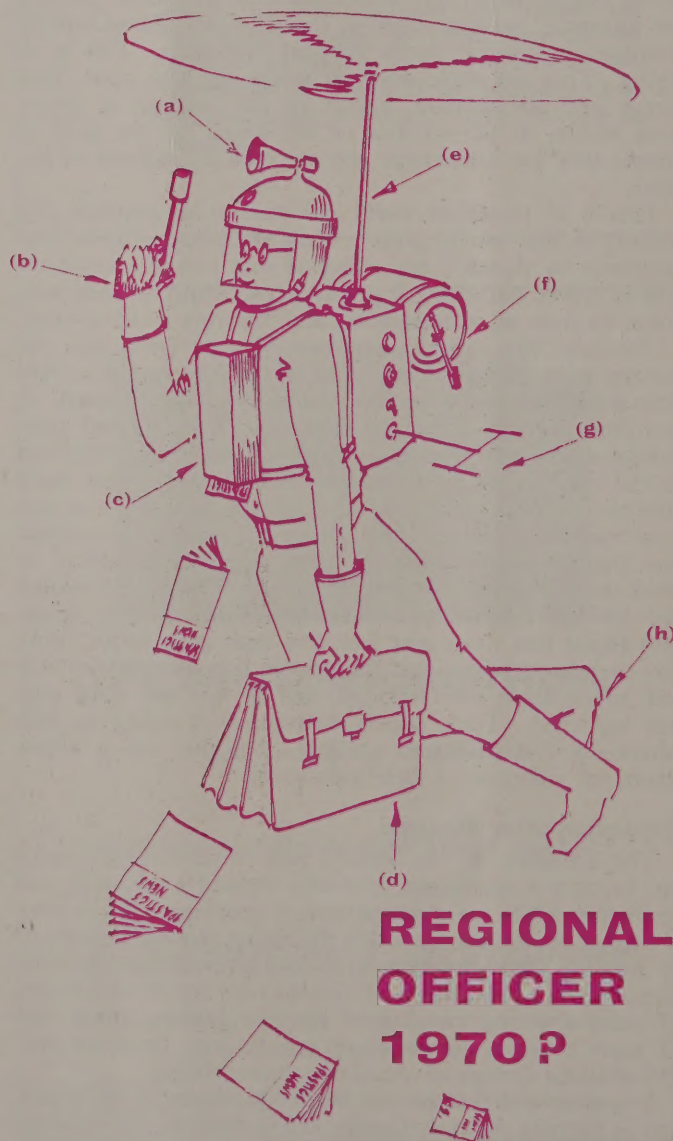
There have been changes in the characteristics of groups. At one time there was a predominance of parents among members, but through publicity scores of non-parents have been recruited to membership and active participation in their affairs. This is a very healthy sign. It has been my disappointing experience to watch some groups being carried along by a handful of stalwarts despite all efforts to recruit members, particularly for committee work.

Happily nowadays activities are bent towards a har-

monious blending of services with local projects. Whilst it is admirable to think in terms of setting up a project where there is a need, I have witnessed with satisfaction the greater emphasis being placed by groups on the provision of personal services. In this respect a number of groups in my region employ either voluntary or part time paid visitors. This service pays rich dividends because problems beyond a group's capacity are passed on to the Regional Office for attention.

In my opinion a Regional Officer has more opportunity than any other member of staff of witnessing the whole of the problem including that of the mentally handicapped spastic which is acknowledged as a grave issue. The Society has a deep concern for the welfare of this particular group.

As my region and many of its spastics are farthest from the centre of things, I would hope that the adage "out of sight out of mind" is unknown in London. As a reminder may I end by quoting a passage which appeared a short time ago in a magazine and which might serve a useful purpose: "Mis-informed Southerners, with the shingle of Brighton on their shoes or the smell of roaring London in their nostrils, regard anywhere north of Peterborough as the back of beyond."



**REGIONAL
OFFICER
1970?**

Has Your Group Registered?

THE final stage in the plan to compile a complete register of charities in England and Wales was reached on February 28, 1963, when local charities in Cumberland, Westmorland, Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland and Yorkshire were required to register with the Charity Commissioners.

It is now compulsory for all charities, with a few exceptions, to register with the Charity Commissioners under the terms of the Charities Act, 1960, and any Local Groups which have not yet done so **ARE NOW IN DEFAULT.**

The Charity Commissioners have commented that the response to their calls to register has been rather slow. So far only about 17,000 charities have been registered, and it is thought that many may still be unaware of their duty to apply for registration. The fact that a charity may be known already to the Commissioners or is registered as a charity for disabled persons under the National Assistance Act, 1948, or under the Companies Act, does not relieve it of the obligation to register it under the Charities Act. The Commissioners want all those concerned in the administration of charities to ensure the success of the register and its objects by applying promptly for registration.

Unless a Local Group has been registered since 1960 under Section 4 of the Charities Act by the Charity Commissioners or an application for registration has already been made, **PROMPT ACTION IS NECESSARY.** Application forms may be obtained from:—

The Charity Commission (Reg. Div.),
14 Ryder Street, London, S.W.1.,

or from Local Council Offices, Councils of Social Service and Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

Groups who are doubtful about registration or who want further information should consult their Regional Officer without delay.

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South East Regional Conference

Hove, Sussex, April 6

AN interesting day conference for parents and friends of Spastics was held at Hove on April 6, 1963. It took for its subject "The Adult Spastic", and its host was the Brighton, Hove & District Branch, who very kindly looked after children who came with their parents, at the Hamilton House Centre in Dyke Road.

The Conference was opened by His Worship the Mayor of Hove, Miss M. R. Morgan, the Society's Employment Officer, gave a talk on "Some Aspects of Employment" and the film, *Right for the Job*, was shown.

Some Problems of the Adult Spastic

In the afternoon Mr. Watson, Warden of Prested Hall, rose to give a talk, and took instant exception to the title of his subject. He did not like to be for ever talking about "the problem of the adult spastic". He was a problem himself, Mr. Watson said. All of us were. And "problem" implied a solution, whereas there was no solution to the human problem.

Eight years ago it was said, "Of course it will be different, and easier, once we are getting spastics who have been through the schools". But it wasn't. There were no miracles of cure for this condition, and Mr. Watson was fed up hearing of them. He knew a chap who'd been everywhere—schools, physiotherapy, faith healing on a correspondence course, orthopaedics, Lourdes—he was even willing to become a Roman Catholic if there were a sort of half-guarantee that a second Lourdes visit would be more successful—and he was as handicapped as ever he had been.

What we could do was try to help a spastic person see clearly what his physical condition was, and to accept it, and to go on from there. When this was faced up to, much could be done. Mr. Watson quoted the case of the man who took a Ruskin College correspondence course, reaching a level described by his tutor as "far above the average". He had never been to school, and his parents were not highly educated, but he learned from sheer desire. He was a man who had faced up to facts as they were.

What kind of help do spastics need? Help and coaxing to explore possible avenues, said Mr. Watson. And support and confirmation in considered points of view they may take up.

Parents often don't accept a given situation, and dream of miracles of cure. They often become obsessed with the difficulties of their children—and this can't be avoided, said Mr. Watson. The only thing to do is to live through it and find out something true and lasting as you go. But while these preoccupations and troubles are great, and hope is aimed at hopeless ends, parents can harm and hurt their children, who are seeking for positive means to live a real life. "My Richard won't ever settle with you", a mother would say—in Richard's hearing. And a few months later Richard comes home on holiday, and says "You know, you never understood me. I can't think why I stayed home so long." All this cruelty and wrong effort could and should be avoided.

Relief of parents is a big part of the benefits of residential

care, and because the life of parents is released into greater fullness by their children "going residential", often tension and strain is eased for both parent and child, and a clearer sight is taken, by both, of difficulties *as they are*.

The real miracle is the way in which residents, becoming friends and complementing each other, each achieve something impossible, absorbing some of the difficulties and awkward jags of each other.

"One of the most valuable things we can do", said Mr. Watson, "is, when we come across this kind of miracle, to leave it alone. We must use what's there to help spastics to establish some kind of real life.

"We're still getting patronising visitors who walk round and pat heads and shove off in half-an-hour, having done God's work. We don't want that. That is living people's lives for them—it's like sending food parcels to the hungry, where irrigation methods are wanted, and equipment to carry them out."

The Ministry of Labour and the Adult Spastic

Mr. K. F. Swinfen, from the Ministry of Labour, pointed out that whereas Mr. Watson was concerned with the most heavily handicapped spastics, the Ministry was concerned only with those whose disabilities would allow them to earn their own living. The Ministry had the power not only itself to provide training for employment, sheltered employment, industrial rehabilitation, special aids to employment and similar facilities, but also to help financially other organisations, such as voluntary societies and local authorities, who provided such facilities directly.

Most people actually engaged in the employment of the handicapped were convinced that wherever possible the aim should be to find employment for the disabled worker in ordinary industry. It was only there that he could feel fully independent, could have the satisfaction of holding down a job in direct competition with other people and had opportunities for advancement and promotion. It was towards this end, therefore, that the Ministry's training and rehabilitation programmes were primarily directed.

Mr. Swinfen went on to emphasise that in his opinion it was wrong to regard lightly handicapped spastics as a separate class of people who required special facilities. To do so would tend to confine them to a very limited range of occupations when the important thing was to consider what the spastic as an individual could do, what were his particular aptitudes and abilities, his level of intelligence, education—to look at him as a whole human being and seek out the right job for him as an individual wherever that job might be.

The Ministry's Disabled Resettlement Officers were providing a useful service, helping spastics into ordinary employment and advising about training, sheltered employment and all other aspects of the Ministry's work. But, unfortunately, D.R.O.'s were not magicians. All too often they found themselves looking for a light assembly job in an area where there was nothing but coalmining, or looking for an agricultural job

in the middle of London. They had a difficult job to do and it was to their credit that the records showed such a high level of success.

For some spastics too severely handicapped to work in ordinary employment, work in a sheltered workshop might be the answer. "Sheltered" was an unfortunate word because these workshops were factories where very severely handicapped men and women went to do a week's work in an industrial situation. The job was broken down much more than was possible in ordinary industry, special machines and work benches were provided and there was less emphasis upon production costs than in an ordinary factory. They were nonetheless industrial workshops where the workers were engaged on worthwhile production and where they went home at the end of the week with a feeling of satisfaction at having earned every penny in their wage packets. If they had not that feeling there was something wrong with the workshop. Mr. Swinfen went on to give details of Remploi's 90 sheltered workshops and of the workshops run by voluntary societies and local authorities throughout the country. He pointed out that many workshops originally set up for people with specific disabilities were now opening their doors to people with other types of disabilities.

Mr. Swinfen concluded by emphasising his belief that the only approach to this subject was to look at what the particular person could *do*; to look at his ability rather than his disability. What he cannot do is of no value at all when thinking about employment, in fact such a negative approach can only obstruct. It is only by a positive approach that foundations can be laid upon which a successful future can be built.

Born Too Soon

Mrs. G. Keeping, parent of a spastic, gave an interesting talk which put the case of the very badly handicapped older spastic, born when there were no spastic schools and training, and so unable, despite good intelligence, to get through an assessment or a training course.

As they get older, said Mrs. Keeping, these spastic people become more and more disheartened. They have had little real childhood or youth, and they think they are forgotten especially when they see so much done for children.

The Portsmouth Group had recently started, in a rented building, its own work centre. There were 11 young men there, and girls were coming soon.

One of the men, aged 37, had never been anywhere or been given any opportunity in life. At first, at the centre, he found it hard to struggle about and to mix, but now he was working and the opportunities the centre offers had made all the difference to him. Another boy, a twin whose brother was fit, where he was handicapped, was very anti-social when he came. Seeing others so much more heavily handicapped had helped him to mix and to face life more sensibly. Another had been smothered—prevented from doing anything in the least difficult, and his disabilities had doubled therefore. The independence and effort required of him at the centre had helped him tremendously, both physically and towards happiness.

These and other spastic people were saved from frustration by having a place, and a purpose, in life.

Much more must be done yet, to help these spastics who had been "born too soon".

Have you booked your holiday yet?

BEDFONT HOLIDAY HOTEL

Marine Parade West, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex

The Society are happy to announce the opening of a holiday hotel for spastics at Clacton-on-Sea, for a short season—July, August and September, 1963.

It is regretted that accommodation will have to be limited to lightly handicapped, mobile holiday-makers this summer, but after structural alterations have been carried out during the winter, holiday and short-stay care will be available the whole year round.

For further information and bookings, please apply to: The Projects Secretary, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, W.1.

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NOTTINGHAM & DISTRICT FRIENDS OF SPASTICS

A Successful Group Without a Centre

SOME Groups without Centres concentrate on fund-raising activities, some on the discovery and aid of more spastic people, and some on providing a social life for the otherwise house-bound. Some grasp the hammer firmly in both hands and bash away at all three. The Nottingham and District Spastics Group is one of these.

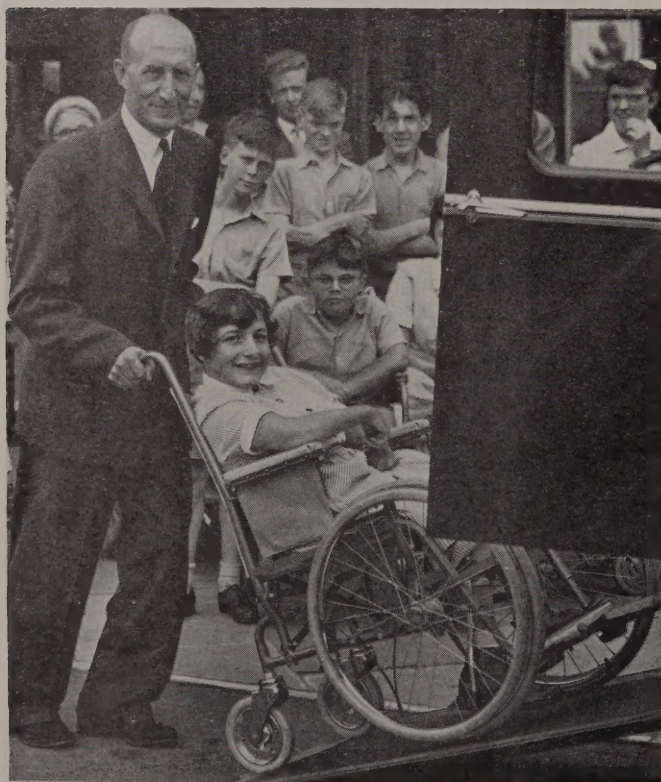
Power of the Press

One of the earliest Groups to be formed—six months before the N.S.S. broke ground—Nottingham's early history was very different from the smoother course a new Group today would have to follow. Its present Hon. Secretary, Mrs. H. E. Wolff, wrote a letter to the local paper, asking for members and wrote notices of a proposed meeting to parents of spastics (all unknown to her and to each other) which were distributed to clients by the physiotherapist at the hospital.

The letter in the paper was seen by Mr. S. A. S. Malkin, a well-known surgeon who was on the Executive Committee of the Nottingham Cripples Guild. Mr. Malkin sent the Organising Secretary of the Guild to enquire about the newly-formed Group, and presently the Group became a sub-committee of the Guild, independent in every way but sponsored by the established organisation.

The two organisations still work closely together, and share the ball and the children's party between them each year.

It was through the press, again, that Nottingham linked up with the N.S.S. *The Daily Mirror* published a piece on a



(Photographs courtesy of Guardian Journal)

(Above) Members of the Group admire a display of Home-workers' jewellery, set up in the foyer at the Autumn Dance

meeting of parents and friends of spastics to be held at the Ambassadors Hotel in 1952, with a view to forming the N.S.S. Mrs. Wolff read the piece, wrote in, and was invited by telegram to attend.

Co-operation in Local Authority Provision

Local authority provision for spastics in the area is comprehensive and good, and there is no need for the Group to build a school or Centre of its own as yet. At the beginning of its life, there was very little help locally for spastics, but from its first days the Group has kept the City and County Local Authorities—education, medical and welfare—fully informed of all their plans and meetings, and the result has been a very happy co-operation indeed.

A new national project of the Society's—the Parent Relief Unit at the Mount—has met the last most urgent need, and much of the Group's income and activity is now directed to this Unit. Meanwhile, members keep up their comfortable custom of joining in whatever is going—they will share the use of a room in a new building being put up for the Red Cross, for instance, with the help of a grant from the City Watch Committee.

Social Life for Spastic People

There are about 350 members, and about 75 per cent of them are either adult spastics or parents. Throughout the year they raise funds at the rate of about £50 a week from appeals, coffee evenings and socials, which makes a tidy bit to spend. What do they do with it? "Spending money is much more important than having it", said Mrs. Wolff beguilingly. "It's no use in the bank. We have monthly social evenings, where about 120 members turn up, and we have the same basic programme of social events each year, which we add to as the chances come up."

This is the programme. A children's party in January—A pantomime visit in February (for adults). The ganrd ball in March, a children's outing in June (a family outing, this—Mums come along free, Dads and other children pay a small amount. Chalets are hired on the beach for eating in)—An adult's outing in July ("the children like the sea, but adults like an active outing," said Mrs. Wolff. "We took them to Wicksteed Park last year—swings, roundabouts, candy floss—

(Left) Mr. Wolff wheels aboard the first young customer of the £1,000 specially adapted ambulance presented to Thieves Wood School by the Group

I thought it was terrible but they loved it. Adults enjoy a slap-up meal more than children, too.”) Then there’s an outing in August for all handicapped children, arranged by the Rotary Club, and a bumper social evening in September to open the winter season. The big autumn dance is held in November, and the adults’ party in December.

Holiday Scheme

Besides these big events, some of which raise money as well as giving fun, the Group operates a Holiday Scheme, from May to September. This costs £500 a year, and from this year the cost is being shared with the Society, and will also enjoy a grant of £60 for the City Welfare Services Committee. (“How on earth did you get that?” we wondered. “I asked”, said Mrs. Wolff. “No harm in asking.”)

Last year about 30 spastic people went on holiday under this scheme—often people who had never been away from home before. This year arrangements are being made for about 40 more. The Group pays for one week’s stay away, pays all extra expenses and makes all arrangements, including fixing up a second week at the holiday-makers’ own expense, if they wish for it. St. John Ambulance Brigade provide the escorts and vehicles and, as always with this Group, the co-operation between the two organisations is very friendly and close.

“It costs a lot”, Mrs. Wolff said. “With ambulances at 1s. a mile, the hotel itself, and escort fees to meet, one holiday can cost £50 to £60.” But it’s worth it, both for the sake of the spastic on holiday and for giving parents a welcome break in the year. The Group is very much aware of the need for and value of parent relief, and does all it can in this direction. “It makes the whole year much happier and easier if a family can look forward to a holiday”, said Mrs. Wolff.

Because the families of school-children already share their problems to some extent, the Group does not send school-children on holiday, but operates the scheme for adults and—among children—the mentally handicapped and those with difficult home backgrounds—where there is only one parent, for instance.

In the same way, the Group pays the expenses of young people going on the Society’s Assessment Courses, or spastic people needing to travel or stay away from home, seeking jobs or for other reasons.

THIS GROUP . . .

. . . Provides needed Equipment

Once the Group has been formed and members had raised some money, they needed a specific aim. They heard that Nottinghamshire Education Committee had a piece of ground on which it had meant to build a school for severely handicapped children. But the war had stopped all such plans.

The Group wrote to the Director of Education offering to provide some specialised equipment to the school, if spastic children were to be admitted. It now has several spastic children and is residential. Mrs. Wolff was made a member of the Management Committee and the Group kept its promise, donating a specially adapted ambulance costing £1,076. This school, Thieves Wood, is a project of the County of Nottingham

In 1952 the City Authorities agreed to take one spastic child into the Arboretum Special School for Physically Handicapped Children, and see how things worked out. The experiment was a success, and the Arboretum has now a Spastic Unit of between 30 and 40 children. The Group has supplied the unit with equipment and gifts—a tape recorder, a film projector, a doll’s house—money at Christmas each year.



(Above) Mrs. Stevens, Mr. H. E. Wolff, Chairman of Nottingham Group, Dr. C. P. Stevens, Director of The Spastics Society and Mrs. Wolff, at the successful grand Ball in March, which raised over £1,000

It pays for some equipment for, and makes donations to, our National Centres—Coombe Farm, Ponds, Tixover, Ingfield, Prested Hall. The Centre orders the stuff and the Group pays the bill. Nottingham was the first Group to send money—£100—to Daresbury Hall when lack of funds delayed the opening of that Centre.

The City Welfare Authorities opened an Occupational Centre five years ago, and gave the Group the use of a big room for meetings and social activities. In its turn, the Group provided chairs, and shared the cost of a record-player with the Epileptic Organisation.

£1,000 is to go to the new Special Day Care Centre to open in the City, for moderately handicapped children who cannot go to school.

. . . Helps Form New Groups

The Mansfield and Newark Groups were launched by the Nottingham Group, which gave them sums of money to start them off. The Newark Group joins in with Nottingham on outings and in the Nottingham ’62 Club which now has about 40 members over 16 years old.

. . . Raises Funds

Many of the social events described already raise money—coffee evenings in particular being very profitable, especially if you have a good garden where cake-stalls, buried treasure and competitions needing space can be arranged.

The Group found jumble sales too expensive in petrol, but coffee evenings, with sherry also offered, have proved just the thing, for everyone has a good time and spends more enjoying the different side-shows. Asked for a sure-fire money-making competition, Mrs. Wolff gave high praise to throwing ping pong balls into a slightly tilted flowerpot at 3d. a go. “I don’t say it never goes in,” said Mrs. Wolff, a look of pleased reminiscence in her eye, “but it doesn’t do it often, and when it does the victor is always determined to do it again . . .”

Organisation

Well, who does all this? Every member of the Group does his share, and Committee members divide up the main jobs between them.

The Chairman and Hon. Secretary are married. “My husband does the clubs and pubs and scrounges—he’s very good at scrounging,” said Mrs. Wolff comfortably, “and I do the Churches and Townswomen’s Guilds and give a lot of talks.”

The Vice-Chairman, Mrs. D. A. Woolley, runs the complicated holiday scheme as her special province.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. G. Pywell, is a Lloyd's Bank official and it's noticeable that the Nottingham Group has no money troubles at all. Mr. Pywell was one of the first Group Treasurers to change his accounting dates and method to fit the standardised form asked for by H.Q.—doing this at some inconvenience, but seeing the point.

Mr. W. Laurie is the Group's Transport Officer, arranging a volunteers' transport service for all the many outings and events. That must be a job and a half.

Mr. E. Warsop organises concerts in clubs and pubs.

Miss V. Roulstone, a teenager on the Committee, organises dances about twice a year while Mr. and Mrs. Gray help send out notices.

All Group members contribute prizes and help with typing, serving at parties, providing refreshments, etc. The two biggest do's of the year—the ball and the autumn dance—are organised by special *ad hoc* committees with the help of the Social Committee which has overall charge of all meetings and entertainments—including the many old-time dances, got up when these energetic people seem to have a slack moment and which have brought in £1,000 since they were started four years ago by Mr. and Mrs. A. Scattergood and Mr. J. Gill, Group members.

Fund-Raising Secretary? "We don't seem to need one," said Mrs. Wolff. . .

Co-operation

Why is the Nottingham Group so successful, and so fortunate in its work? The chief reason undoubtedly, apart from back-breaking labour, is co-operation. In all it does, the Group keeps closely in touch with every section of the

larger community which might be interested, helpful or able to be helped. The result is a web with hundreds of threads to it, connecting the Group with hospitals, local authorities, St. John, cognate charities, the police (who arrange special parking at theatre visits), the medical profession—and every parent, every spastic adult, every child.

Because of this there is in Nottingham today City and County provision for special residential schooling, day schools, day centres, occupational centres, a proposed unit for the mentally handicapped, and the Society's Parent Relief Unit at the Mount.

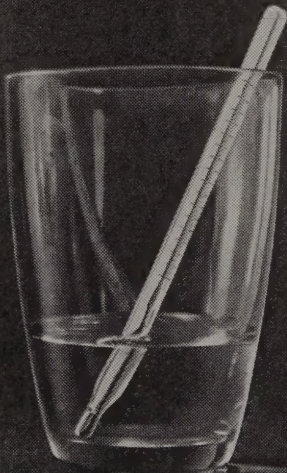
★ ★ ★ ★

CHANGES IN DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

- A. Schools and Centres Secretary (Mrs. C. A. Clifton).
 - (i) Assistant Schools and Centres Secretary (Mr. J. Le Prevost).
 - (ii) Projects Planning Officer (Mr. C. P. Smart).
- B. Industrial Centres Secretary (Col. J. C. Jefferson).
 - (i) Assistant Industrial Centres Secretary (Mr. N. D. B. Elwes).
- C. Local Centres Secretary (Mr. D. R. H. Lancaster-Gaye).
 - (i) Assistant Local Centres Secretaries (Mr. M. R. H. Stopford and Miss E. M. McKay).
- D. Careers and Employment Secretary (Miss M. Morgan).
 - (i) Employment Officer (Mr. S. Allman).
 - (ii) Careers Officer (Mrs. Wynn).

minor ailments of today

feverishness



When your body is fighting germs, its temperature regulating mechanism is disturbed and your temperature rises. We say, inaccurately and sorrowfully, that we 'have a temperature'—when what we mean is that our temperature is above normal.

Now some people believe that a raised temperature helps your body to fight infection, and this may be true. But it is also true that 'a temperature' is very uncomfortable, and that you undoubtedly feel a lot better if you take something to bring your temperature down. Feeling better has a lot to do with getting better—and that is why most doctors prescribe acetyl salicylic acid for high temperature, and why most of us take 'ASPRO' when we feel a bit feverish.

Incidentally, 'ASPRO' brings your temperature back to normal and no lower.

Next time you feel feverish, don't forget 'ASPRO'. You will not only be taking one of the best and safest antipyretics or fever reducers, but also sparing the Doctor's time for those with more serious complaints. If your fever persists then is the time to consult your Doctor.



SPOTLIGHT ON

'RIGHT FOR THE JOB'

"The Spastics Society, in producing a film about the employment of spastics has made a good start by giving it a brisk title—"Right for the Job"; and the film maintains that briskness for the whole of its 30 minutes."

The above extract from a trade journal is just one example of the enthusiastic reception which the Press as a whole has given our latest film. *The Times* newspaper film critic asked for a private preview; so did the *Financial Times*. Dr. J. Grierson, whose weekly television programme, "This Wonderful World", commands a national audience of millions, requested that a copy be available for him to see when he returned from Europe. This was done . . . and we live in hope!

Employers have been equally responsive. Hardly had the audience left the National Film Theatre after the preview when requests to show the film to factory audiences began to flow in. Each post brought letters headed by national names—names like Stewart and Lloyds, Philips, Birmingham Small Arms Company, Bryant & May, to mention a few. These were quickly followed by more letters from Personnel Officers, Youth Employment Officers, Ministry of Labour Officials, and officers of various outside organisations, as well as Groups, and bookings have now been made well into the summer.

The film was well and truly launched.

G.P.

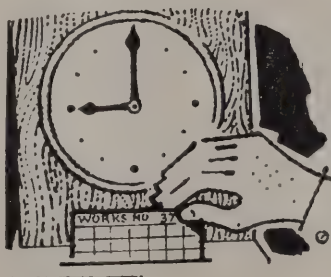


The "Happy Birthday" cards which came to Mr. Alan Edney on April 3 from his wife, actress Sylvia Syms, and his children, Benjamin aged 2 and Beatrice aged 6 months, came from the new stock of Spastics Cards Ltd. The Ealing shop has now launched into sales of everyday cards, besides jewellery and handcrafts. In the picture Miss Syms, a member of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, is seen buying her cards from (left) Mrs. M. Lane, shop assistant, and Miss Anne Plummer, a young spastic girl employed by the Society



(Photograph: John Bundock)

(Above) Miss M. R. Morgan, the Society's Employment Officer, Dr. C. P. Stevens, Director, and Mr. W. M. Hargreaves, Industrial Liaison Officer, answer questions put by an interested audience after the first showing of the film



SPASTICS AT WORK

Sarah Brogden, from **Lichfield**, who qualified at St. Christopher's, Tonbridge, as a Nursery Nurse, will commence work in the summer term as a Junior Nursery Assistant in an infants' school near her home. Sarah was educated at the Thomas Delarue School.

Jean Ferrier, from **Fulham**, having successfully completed a trial period, is now working on a permanent basis for a local firm of clothing manufacturers. Her work consists of making and folding plastic bags.

Richard Hudson, from **Loughborough**, is working for a trial period as a glass shaper in a local firm of scientific instrument manufacturers.

Malcolm Maylin, from **Bexleyheath**, following his training in book-keeping and general office routine at Queen Elizabeth's Training College, Leatherhead, has now found employment.

Mary Prance, from **Hertford**, after completing her training at Queen Elizabeth's Training College, Leatherhead, is working in London for a radio firm. Her duties include telephone and clerical work.

The Homeworkers Scheme has enrolled the following new Jewellery makers:—

Jean Deans, **Mrs. Laura Dicken**, **Derek Faulkner**, **Lillian Harwood**, **Anne Simmonds**, **Keith Stone**, **Yvonne Wakeling**, and **Derek Barrett** has joined as a knitter, using his own electric knitting machine.

(Right) Walking across St. Peter's Square in Rome

(Below) Some went to the Fancy Dress dance as the cast of "Guys & Dolls"



ASSESS ON THE

Written by
M. R. Morgan

ASSessment certainly, but fortunately the seas were calm, the skies blue and the sun shining during most of the educational course that 20 young spastics and three members of the employment department joined on M.S. *Dunera* in early March.

This was the second party of boys and girls to have the unique opportunity of combining an assessment course with a cruise, this time sailing right around the coast of Italy. Most of our young people were in their last year at school and they joined 400 other children from a variety of schools—secondary modern, grammar and technical colleges. While the other boys and girls were studying geography and history, our students were doing a variety of manual dexterity and speed tests, discussing different types of jobs and writing sample letters of application to employers. The countryside around us was not, however, neglected as we joined lectures and film shows and learnt a great deal about places that we had heard so much about but had never visited—Rome, with the awe-inspiring St. Peter's, the silent Colosseum and the

wonderful fountains; Naples, gay and colourful with Vesuvius on the skyline; the fascinating ruins of Pompeii; and Solfatara, an active volcanic area with boiling mud and ash, and Dante's Inferno to visit—if you like a temperature of 180 degrees!

Our young people particularly enjoyed Malta—because the people spoke English, they explained. In between our visits to churches, catacombs and palaces, where we saw a magnificent collection of medieval armour and tapestries, we managed to find time for a few hours on the Golden Sands beach, and the hardier ones had a swim in the Mediterranean. In Valetta, too, the boys in our party were the guests of the Royal Navy when they spent an afternoon on board the destroyer, H.M.S. *Scorpion*.

Dubrovnik in Yugoslavia must surely be a beautiful place in the sunshine—unfortunately we arrived on a wet Sunday afternoon and the fascinating medieval walled town was de-

(Below) The Alps, photographed from



(Below) On board and back to work



MENT GH SEAS

*Photographs
by M. C. Hargreaves*



(Left) Waiting for the eruption—the volcanic crater at Solfatara

(Below) On the bridge



serted and very wet. Venice, too, was cold and wet when we first arrived, but fortunately we were able to see the splendours of the San Marco Square and the Rialto Bridge in the sunshine and without many tourists. We soon found our way around the canals in the vaporetti, which take the place of buses in Venice, and we visited a glass-blowing factory on one of the small islands. It must be admitted, however, that we all held our breath while 20 exuberant young spastics examined the priceless samples in the showroom! At lunch-time we invaded a trattoria, which is a small local café, and with great gusto and many giggles tackled plates of spaghetti, macaroni and ravioli. Only two of the girls decided afterwards they would have preferred fish and chips!

As we travelled out by rail to Genoa and homewards from Venice we had wonderful views of snow-covered Switzerland and the Dolomites, but we were not just sight-seeing and during the long rail journey home we had an opportunity to

rain on the way through Switzerland.



talk to each student individually about plans for their future. These boys and girls were all fairly lightly physically handicapped—they had to be to cope with energetic and well-disciplined life both at sea and on shore. Bunks had to be made in naval fashion and dormitories swept and ship-shape for the captain's daily inspection, moving gangways had to be negotiated, boat drills had to be completed at the double, and we all—leaders included—had to drop everything when summoned by the ship's broadcasting system. But surprisingly enough, after the first day or so of confusion we were all ready to tackle, with enthusiasm, any new experience that came our way.

We were very glad that these twelve boys and eight girls from our waiting list for assessment were able to have this very special experience and, from the many comments made to us by other passengers and children on board the *Dunera*, we gather that they, too, were delighted to have our cheerful and active crowd with them.

(Below) Golden Sands beach, Malta





WILFRED PICKLES SCHOOL, 1955–1963

by **R. A. Pedder, Headmaster**

ON August 1, 1955, the first members of Staff arrived at Tixover Grange to be confronted with incredible chaos.

The main building resembled the aftermath of an explosion. There wasn't a room that was habitable, the water was not connected, toilets couldn't be used, no facilities were ready for making a hot drink, not to mention the making of a meal, and no electricity was connected.

On the pre-arranged day the first pupils arrived—eighteen of them—drawn from all parts of the country, with varying degrees of handicap, mostly severe. They were full of apprehension, confusion and resentment. In six weeks we had transformed the place from a ruin into residential establishment of which we were and are justly proud.

Now we settled to the task of developing the educational, spiritual, physical and social potential of the spastics pupils entrusted to our care. There were only three members of staff who had had any previous experience with these children and, in the weeks before opening we would gather in the evening and discuss the various problems with which we would all be concerned. These discussions would go on well into the night, sometimes the early morning, and it soon became clear how valuable they were. The various disciplines settled to their particular tasks as if they had been concerned with such children for years.

The problems with which we were confronted were many—they still are—but we set about tackling them with a seriousness that was intense. There was never any set pattern to be applied to any situation—how well we learned that no two spastics were alike—and no text books of any consequence to be consulted.

In due time character, atmosphere and tempo settled to a more natural and rational mode of life. We had time to concentrate our energies and efforts upon the many varied side effects associated with cerebral palsy that are not so obvious as the direct physical manifestations.

It is often difficult, in retrospect, to analyse the extent of the progress made by pupils. Often when interviewing parents they pleasantly remind one of such progress—one such incident occurred recently when interviewing a school-leaver (Michael Hills) with his mother. Mrs. Hills was asked what ideas she had about her son's future. She remarked how good it was to be able to consider this question since Michael spoke very little neither could he walk when he first came to school. Now he speaks well, gets about unaided, reads fluently and will probably achieve complete independence.

Educationally, progress can be more readily measured, certainly on the basic subject of reading. It is in this subject,

that I think most progress has been made by most pupils. Especially with the pupils having a "visual perception" difficulty has this been noticeable. Progress in this matter has opened up new horizons for these pupils as a result of which progress in some other subjects has followed.

The existence of different categories of schools has enabled inter-school transfers to be made. A few pupils have been considered more suitable for Irton and Inghfield whilst at least seven have been transferred to The Thomas Delarue School. On the other hand there have been pupils who, after a period of time, no longer needed the special services we had to offer and were transferred to appropriate schools in their own locality. This happened to Ann Swiffen who joined us in October, 1955, and was able leave in 1958 to continue her schooling at her local Secondary School where she continued to make very good educational progress.

As one would expect, only a small percentage of pupils are sufficiently developed by school leaving age to go to open employment. There have been a couple of notable examples—Gerald Wilson (Spastic Quadriplegic) who is successfully serving his apprenticeship with a firm of plate engravers and lithographers and James McKenzie (a Spastic Hemiplegic) who is employed with the G.P.O. Others have gone to Training Centres, Assessment and Further Education Courses, but the problem of the future of some of the most severely handicapped still remains, although much more is being done.

Constant efforts are made to help the school-leavers to be as realistic as possible, and of assisting them to become aware of what is expected from them in the way of independence, employment and general social relationships. To this end older pupils are now housed in School Cottages where a greater measure of independence is permitted and where, with their houseparents, they assist in working out some of their problems and organising their daily living arrangements. This has been a most important experience for all concerned and has broken down the pattern of dependence and protection normally surrounding handicapped young people.

The work has always been a challenge to the School Staff and whilst much has been done one feels always as if one is on the fringe of some big development. There is seldom a dull moment—and certainly never an idle one.



(Photograph: courtesy of Kent & Sussex Courier)

Mr. F. W. Bowyer, Warden of Coombe Farm, receives a Sley Ride Wheelchair from Mr. J. W. Cowan, Treasurer of Tunbridge Wells Spastics Society. Timothy Valentine is using the chair

OVALTINE

the right hot drink to round off the day



PI34B



Ingfield Manor School:

Beautiful Miss Australia, Miss Tricia Reschke, visited Ingfield Manor when she came to this country earlier in the year.

Miss Reschke comes from Coonawarra, South Australia. She and her chaperone, Mrs. Margaret Boardman, are in this country as part of a world tour awarded each year to the winner of the Miss Australia Quest. This competition raises large sums of money for spastic children in Australia and in 1962 the figure was £200,000.

Shown around the school by the headmistress, Miss E. M. Varty, Miss Reschke and her companion stayed a number of hours, chatting to most of the children.

She commented on the size of Ingfield Manor, saying it was one of the largest homes she had visited both in this country and Australia.

She brought presents of a koala bear and a platypus, made from kangaroo fur, and our picture (left) shows her giving these to two of the children.

Thomas Delarue School:

A week or two back, one of the boys at the school was ill, and was tucked into the sick bay. The Matron went along later and found him feeling much better. "I had an interesting dream", he said. "I dreamt that I was floating on a cloud up to heaven. There was St. Peter at the gate, and he looked me up and down. 'And where do you come from?' he asked. I said I was from Delarue.

'Come in !' said St. Peter, 'Come in! We've never had anyone from there . . . '"

News

in brief

Manchester and District:

Mr. Gilligan writes of three thumping donations from generous supporters:

"A cheque for £173 0s. 0d. recently presented to the Manchester Society by the President of the Walness Social Angling Society. This substantial donation represented the profit on the Angling Society's competition in the autumn of last year.

"The proceeds of £44 8s. 3d.—the result of a concert at the Langley Labour Club, near Manchester, was presented by Mr. Harry Dowd (the Manchester City goal-keeper).

"The concert's tremendous success was attributable, we are sure, to the personal appearance at the concert of Albert Tatlock and Frank Barlow of Granada's 'Coronation Street'.

"We are delighted to report that £164 1s. 5d. was raised at a collection recently taken at the turnstiles of the Manchester City Football Club."



(Photograph: G. E. Gregory, Hastings)

The Bishop of Lewes, the Rev. J. H. Lloyd-Morrell, for the first time in his career confirmed four spastic young people, students at the Further Education Course at Colwall Court at Bexhill Parish Church a few weeks ago. (Right to left), Elizabeth Ann Richards from Yeovil, Mary Harron from Buckingham, the Bishop, June Hockney from Lincoln and Peter Stevenson from Stoke on Trent. Also in our picture is the Vicar, the Rev. E. A. Stone, who prepared the students for their confirmation

East Sussex Group:

Mrs. J. M. Sanders writes: "Recently, a very nice surprise arrived at our office—a cheque for £10, proceeds of a collection made during the Christmas celebrations at the Corporal's Club, R.A.F. AKROTIRI, Cyprus.

"Our Centre extended the time of functioning from three afternoons per week to four full days when we moved to larger premises. Two of our older girls have recently started riding during their holidays. Tuition and facilities are generously provided by the owner of a local Children's Riding School who is a member of the newly-formed 'Pony Riding for the Disabled Trust.'"



(Picture: Courtesy of Tillotsons Newspapers Ltd.)

This photograph of members of the Cubs and Scouts of Birtenshaw Hall special school for spastics was taken at a special presentation ceremony, when Michael Downs was awarded the Leaping Wolf badge, the highest honour a Wolf Cub can gain and the first ever gained in the Birtenshaw Hall Pack. Michael is on the right of the photograph, with the two bands about his left arm denoting that he is a Sixer (leader) in the Pack



Television Stars at the Red Lion:

Charrington landlord, Frank H. Clements, and Resident Manager, Ivor Hatto, were hosts at the Red Lion, Colliers Wood, for a charity darts tournament which drew a crowd of over 400 and produced £200 for Spastics.

The teams consisted of members of a local firm, Corfield and Bucklers Social Club, and foursomes from the TV. Toppers and the "Black and White Minstrel Show". Mr. Clements presented a Toby jug to the captain of the winning team—the TV. Toppers.



(Photograph: Courtesy Grimsby Evening Telegraph)

Mr. "Snowy" Simmons, one of the oldest regulars at The White Bear Hotel, Grimsby, cuts his 74th birthday cake prior to knocking over the beacon on his right.

The White Bear has—er—modified the original beacon, slightly, as you see. Generous customers have now collected a total of £112 for spastics

The Spastics Centre, Haverstock Hill

Norfolk and Norwich:

The Norfolk & Norwich Spastic Association elect annually at a dance a local beauty, who holds the title of Miss N.A.N.S.A. (initials of Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association).

During her term of office she assists the Association by visiting most of the outstanding events which take place.

This year's Miss N.A.N.S.A. (shown in our picture) is Mrs. Moira Jones of Norwich, who was elected from 10 contestants by a panel of judges from the Eastern Counties Newspapers Ltd. Miss N.A.N.S.A. has already commenced her duties and should be a great asset to our group during her year of office.

(Photograph: courtesy of Eastern Daily Press)



(Photograph: John Bundock)

Our picture shows (left to right) Pauline Coleman, John Rose, Michael Solomons, Valerie, Alison Brooks and Elaine Simplatt

The Occupational Centre at Haverstock Hill, opened by the North-West London Group in July 1962, has taken a big step forward. In February the Centre obtained from an outside printing firm a light job of gluing a wallet pocket to the back page of advertising leaflets.

Their target is 700 leaflets a day and they are paid £1 per 1,000. Mrs. Sandell writes: "This little job has boosted

the morale of all members and we hope this is only a beginning. The youngsters feel they are more in touch with workers outside when they are doing a contract job.

"Most of our members are badly handicapped", said Mrs. Sandell, "and so, of course, this work counts for all the more, but one or two are awaiting acceptance for further training—Valerie is going to Sherrards this year."

WILL YOU HELP THE MAN IN THE WHITE COAT?

A Hospital Doctor discusses some of its problems which face parents and doctors when they meet. Another article in the series prepared for "Spastics News" by the staff of "Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology"

YOU go to your doctor to ask him to help your child and you. You wait outside this room wondering what sort of answer you are going to get. Even though you don't really expect him to say that the child "will grow out of it" you still hope and think that perhaps he might say this. You may wonder if the decision will be worse than you expect. Plenty of people have said to you, "Don't worry" but of course you do; after all you and your husband are the child's parents, one of your jobs is to think ahead—to hope and to worry.

After waiting longer than you liked, you take the child in. You wonder if he is tired by now; whether he will do himself justice; whether he will "fail" the doctor's tests and be thought unfit to have the treatment you believe he needs. Will you remember to ask about the chair, or his bowels, or the way he teases his younger brother?

* * *

Then you have said goodbye and you are coming out. The doctor was quite nice but twice he called your boy Jimmy when his name is John. He was very interested in John's little turns and spent a long time on them. He didn't seem to understand your anxiety about the teacher saying John might have to go to a Training Centre with children who are really backward and not spastics. He didn't seem to think it mattered.

And why did the nurse come and talk to him twice in the middle of your consultation? Couldn't she have waited? You might have remembered to say the chair was getting too small for John.

"How heavy John seems today. Perhaps I ought to have asked about a holiday for him."

"Oh good, there is the hospital car; it's ready and we'll be home and I'll be able to explain to Arthur."

Was it a successful consultation? Did you get the help you wanted? Very likely not. The doctor, the hospital, the nurse ought to have done this, remembered that, thought of this.

I am a hospital doctor and I think you are probably quite right that the doctor, the porter, the nurse and the almoner ought to have done better. I hope that the team—all of us, myself included—will do better next time; will make it a more useful, more helpful visit for you and for your child.

But you are also a member of this team. The Team is all of us who work together and are doing this and doing that to find out your child's good points and his handicaps and to find out how best he can be helped.

You are, of course, the most important member of the team. But you can help the other members; you can help your doctor to be better at helping you.

You can do this in various ways.

You can think things over the night before and write down a list of the questions you want answered. Are you worried about: his sight; his hearing; his treatment; his talking; his fits; his learning powers and his happiness; how he gets on with you and the other members of your family and with the neighbours?

Are you worried about the others in the family? Are you

worn out with lifting? If you had another child, would that have the same trouble? Is another child missing something as well as gaining something from having John in the family?

If it is the first visit, you may like to set down on paper any special items you recall about your pregnancy, the labour and what John was like in the first week of life.

The study of children with cerebral palsy is not yet completed; it never will be. Don't be surprised if your doctor says he doesn't know the cause of John's trouble. We don't know the cause in at least half the cases. It is usually far more important to know what you can do *now* and every day to help John. Your doctor will do some things, for "assessment"; to find out what John can do; and he will also do some things for "treatment".

A complete assessment is rarely possible at the first interview—further visits are often needed. And nearly always your doctor will arrange for you to do some things to help and then will want to watch John's progress.

Remember: You may say and feel that you are prepared to hear the worst and you may tell your doctor he *must* tell you everything. But often we don't know everything. We can make a fairly competent guess from our knowledge and experience but nearly always it is better to accept that we don't know exactly how John will eventually turn out. You can certainly ask the doctor to tell you exactly what you can be doing to help John everyday until your next visit.

Science is a wonderful thing and has brought great advances in knowledge. Scientists are essentially humble in their attitude to truth. We know that our present ideas are likely to be changed; that we never reached final certainty; that our diagnoses about John are provisional and may have to be changed.

The answers to your questions will rarely be simple. The decisions we make in life depend on weighing up advantages against disadvantages and deciding which are more important. Like parents, doctors can make mistakes in the plans they suggest for managing children's problems. Doctors can be tired and can be rude (though this is very wrong). Doctors are interested in their work and they try to keep up to date.

Your doctor probably spends time talking to others and reading books and journals about Development, Child Neurology and Cerebral Palsy. He has a lot of subjects to try to keep up-to-date in. This is why we try to make the Society's journals and books lively and attractive as well as authoritative.

He may say he cannot answer a question. Don't be afraid to ask him if there is any way he could find out from someone else. You can write to him and tell him you want to ask a further question on one point. Doctors are busy, but they have chosen the job of trying to help people and they know that parents are often worried and often need explanations.

Remember. You and your doctor are both members of the team. You have to help each other to help John. You have to try to understand each other and the difficulties of what the other is trying to do. And when you do, you'll be a better team and the help for John will be better.

£250,000 for Child Health

MANY of our readers will know something of the work done by the Sembal Trust, which was formed in 1961 when the trustees of the Friends of Spastics League were seeking ways of enlarging their income. Some members of the Friends of Spastics League Club had expressed a wish to include in their activities some help for other charitable work. The trustees (on behalf of the members) and Regional Pool Promotions Ltd. arranged to increase the membership of the Club and to allot one-half of the weekly voluntary donation from each of the *increased* membership, to a new general charitable Trust—Sembal Trust. This Trust has already made grants to a number of causes, including the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and other children's charities. It recently endowed (at a cost of £100,000) a new professorship of Experimental Ophthalmology in the University of London Institute of Ophthalmology, for research into the causes of blindness.

On March 27, 1963, a cheque for £250,000 was presented to Sir Hugh Beaver, Chairman of the Trustees of the Institute of Child Health Building Appeal Fund.

In a short speech which accompanied the presentation of the cheque, Dr. Stevens referred to "the twentieth century version of bread and circuses" so readily available—"middle-class comfort—constant distraction—subsidised uniformity—impersonal welfare, luncheon vouchers, tax concession—and the 5.55 to suburbia. And "they" will look after us all, and see us safely into the grave.

"There's no invitation to greatness there", said Dr. Stevens.

"But voluntary work and voluntary giving can redress the balance, can re-engage the individual personality of real people, lost now in a cosy mist of depersonalised activity.

"The basis of our Western civilisation, and of the Christianity which fostered it, is the integral nature—the wholeness or the holiness, if you like—of persons.

"And this is the basis of real charity—the perfect charity that 'has a beauty fit to steal the heart away'. Not the public charity of the workhouse that has given the language such expressions as 'cold as charity'.

"There is a dreadful modern view that the role of charity is to fill in the gaps of the Welfare State. That is not charity at all. It was not for nothing, as de Quincey pointed out, that the Scriptures speak not of the understanding, but of the understanding heart. This cheque means that some six million people are glad that good work is being done here and will be done, and are grateful for the opportunity of making it possible."

Many of our readers are particularly glad of the work that is being done for spastics, at this leading centre for research into all aspects of children's diseases.

The donation was made in association with the Friends of Spastics League; the Van Neste Foundation and the Good Neighbours Trust.



TRICYCLES

FOR

SPASTICS

A range of Pedal Tricycles to assist the rehabilitation of spastic persons, young and old. Strong and reliable, supplied with loop or double bar frame to choice, in black or colour finish. Toe straps, backrest and 3-speed gear are available. Enquirers should state inside leg measurements.

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GEORGE FITT MOTORS LIMITED

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ADULT MODEL

Letters to the Editor

DR. BEECHING TO NOTE

Dear Editor,

I am a spastic who is bound to a wheelchair and bed like many others. Regarding Dr. Beeching's plans for the railways, I think that The Spastics Society should bring to the notice of the Ministry of Transport that there are a lot of disabled men and women who rely on the train, for getting out!

I know a man at a hospital in Scorton, Yorks. He is on his back the whole time, or in his chair. This man's interest in life is going to all the race meetings in the north-east of England. He has a number of friends who wheel him to the station and put his chair into the guard's van. They have a day out, thanks to the railways.

Here at St. Cuthbert's, we have a spastic who has a cycle chair. If he goes to Darlington, he and his chair can be put on the train, so that he can spend a weekend at home with his mother. Under Dr. Beeching's plan, that line will only be carrying goods.

It is all very well saying that the people can use buses, but how can a chair-bound man get on a bus as he can get on a train?

When I was living with my mother, in Devon, we were able to have a day out almost anywhere on the Devon coast, or go up on to the moors, again thanks to the railway.

If all these lines and stations have to be closed a number of motor vans with windows should be stationed at every town, so the disabled could call them by letter or phone. The charge should be at the same rate as the railway, the balance being met by the National Health Service! I know that the disabled can get transport to hospital or to another hospital. But chair-bound men and women like to be able to go out for fun as well; and they like to be free to go where they like, which the trains made possible.

Please forgive the typing, I am unable to use my hands, I have to type with a rod which is fixed to my head. I do not always touch the right keys; and I am a rotten speller.

ROY SCOTT,
St. Cuthbert's Hospital,
Croft, Darlington, Co. Durham.

TYPING WITH ONE HAND

Dear Editor,

I was most interested in the article

"Typewriting for Spastics" on page 18 of the January issue of SPASTICS NEWS.

I am 33 and have had hemi-plegia (right side), from birth. I can, of course, use all my left-hand fingers so taught myself touch typing — almost — with "Type with One Hand". After this, in 1957, I went to Princeton College in Holborn (now Holborn College of Law, Languages and Commerce), where I took the short commercial course run for disabled persons under the joint auspices of the Ministry of Labour and the L.C.C. I managed to pass the R.S.A. Typewriting 25 w.p.m. but could not sustain this speed for any length of time, so could not offer the subject as a commercial proposition.

I thought you might be interested to see a copy of the book "Type With One Hand".

MISS MARION YOULE,
London, S.W.20.

(The book was published in America and sold in this country by the American Book Supply Company Ltd. But this firm seems to have disappeared. Has anyone seen a copy of the book on sale? It looks useful).

ALL JOIN IN

Dear Editor,

Thankyou for sending me the issue of SPASTIC NEWS containing June's knitting advertisement. I would like to point out that although the knitting looks like hand knitting June does her main on a Passop machine, so perhaps the advert should read hand and machine knitting.

June has had quite a lot of orders. She has completed four and sent them off and has received very satisfied answers. She has two more on the go and has about four enquiries. She can complete an order in a week. This may be the answer I have been praying for, as she has the added disadvantage of being an epileptic as well as a spastic so it is impossible for her to go out to work and as I have six younger than her you can guess how pleased I am she is being helped to help herself.

MRS. E. F. REED,
Hastings.

(We wrote to Mrs. Reed for permission to publish this letter, and when she gave it she added):

"You would be surprised what an interest June's knitting has caused indoors. Her sister, aged 11, does her writing and checks the wool and name so they are not messed up. Another one

gets her stamps, and posts them while her brothers bring her wrapping paper and string home and they all watch for the postman. She has finished her batch of orders now and is eagerly waiting for the next lot."

THE USES OF PITY (1)

Dear Editor,

I was very glad to read Patricia Ravenswood's letter in the April issue. I have often known or heard of handicapped people who, when offered any help, are most ungracious about it. Once when I tried to help an elderly handicapped woman who had fallen over, she "could manage quite all right, thankyou."

Spastics should remember that others can't be expected to see their capabilities or limitations at once, and those who refuse help or advice will find themselves not liked.

This however applies to handicapped and unhandicapped alike. Should we not all be a little more gracious in accepting whatever help or courtesy is given?

Of course we are glad of help. What is not wanted from others is the "poor little thing" attitude.

MARGARET JUPP,
London, S.W.5.

THE USES OF PITY (2)

Dear Editor,

It is the ambition of every Spastic to be as normal as possible, and to this end we want to do all we can for ourselves. Although we must, of necessity, receive some help, we wish it to be as little as possible, and it is by doing all we can that our powers increase. I think perhaps those fortunate people who are not spastic cannot realise that overmuch pity and help accentuates our feeling of dependence.

MURIEL DELL,
Horley, Surrey.

SYDNEY CENTRE

Dear Editor,

I visited the Spastic Society in Sydney on my way home from England and had a very wonderful welcome. They really set the pace.

They are well ahead of anything I saw in Britain. By the time they had shown me all over their training factory and their hostel—I was breathless.

Every five spastics have non-handicapped "Group Head", and the Centre has the total contract for the making of the component parts for the automatic telephone exchange in Sydney. This you may realise is a very important thing. Every component part including the very

tinest is made by the spastic workers and, of course, the Centre is self-supporting, and growing.

The hostel which houses these particular people is in fact like a large hospital with a fully trained staff, and even accommodation for the parents of the young people who are employed who wish to come and stay for an odd day or so.

(Mrs.) CYNTHIA CALLOWAY,
New Zealand.

TOWN & VILLAGE ORGANISATION (Hampshire)

The Pilot Scheme has now come to an end and the office at 32, St. Cross Road, Winchester, has been closed. Representatives and all concerned are asked to address correspondence to:—

Mrs. F. PUGH,
125 Rowling's Road,
Weeke,
Winchester,

who will be responsible to the South-Eastern Regional Officer until a Regional Officer is appointed for the Wessex Region.

FUND RAISING? Ball Pens are used by everyone. We supply Platignum and BIC makes at reduced wholesale rates to organisations. Your Group title, etc., can be die stamped as required on pens, which are available in various colours. Profit over 50 per cent on cost. Details/samples on request. Thompson & Robinson Ltd., 20 Churchfield Road, London W.3. Telephone ACOrn 8770.

The St. Huberts Sports Club, Manager Mr. J. Smith of 413 High Road, Chiswick, London, W.4, has offered to hold a display of Gymnastics and Vaulting for any Local Group which may be interested. The boys, of 14 and upwards, practise 20 vaults in all, some 10 feet long and 6 feet high. They do boxing, judo, and Scottish dancing as well. The Club meets at St. Huberts School in Erconwald Street, East Acton, on Wednesday nights, 7.30-9.30 p.m., and visitors are welcome.

Plain Knitting

MISS JUNE REED, who is a spastic, will plain-knit your family's new woollies, for only 7s. 6d. plus postage for adult sweaters and cardigans, 5s. for children's, 5s. for men's socks and 5s. for scarves, which are double. The socks are knitted open and sewn up afterwards. All she needs is the bust, chest or foot measurement. Send 12 ozs. four-ply or 11 ozs. three-ply for an average woman's size in cardigans, to:

MISS JUNE REED, 33 Upper Broomgrove Road, Hastings, Sussex.

Solution to April Crossword

ACROSS
1. Infant
7. Teacher
8. Dromio
9. Otto
10. Spaces
14. Omsk
16. Snag

17. Boor
18. Apple
19. Fair
20. Styled
24. Eyes
15. Local
25. Trivet
26. Southey

27. Snores

DOWN
1. Indus
2. Flora
3. Naive
4. Tentacles
5. Schoolboy

6. Headstone
11. Pantaloon
12. Cigarette
13. Slipped
21. Turin
22. Lover
23. Dates

'HELPING HAND' WHEEL CHAIR

Takes up little more space than an ordinary chair.

Self-propelled by hand or foot. Invaluable in physiotherapy, encourages independence.

Arm and foot rests, etc., retractable for easy entry, foot rest folds back to allow foot propulsion.

Powerful wheel brakes.

Available for self-propulsion, one-limbed persons.

Deferred terms available.

Suitable adults or children.

Tubular steel construction stove enamelled with well-padded Vy-nide upholstery.

Table attachment to order.



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L. N. PATENTS CO.**

**EMPIRE WORKS, CORNGREAVES ROAD
CRADLEY HEATH, STAFFS**

MAY

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER EXHIBITIONS

1st	Thames Board Mills Social Club, Warrington	J. Rea.
2nd	West Ward Workmen's Club, Keighley, Yorks.	J. Rea.
3rd	Gresham and Cravens Social Club, Walkden, Manchester	J. Rea.
6th	Winnington Park Recreation, Northwich, Cheshire	J. Gardner and J. Rea.
7th	British Legion Club, Fleetwood, Lancs.	J. Gardner and J. Rea.
9th	Hebers Workmen's Club, Middleton, Manchester	J. Gardner and J. Rea.
10th	Rochdale Post Office Club, Rochdale, Lancs.	J. Gardner and J. Rea.
13th	Heywood Reform Club, Heywood, Lancs.	J. Rea.
14th	Westhoughton Labour Club, Westhoughton, Lancs.	J. Rea.
15th	Wellfield Workmen's Club, Prince St., Rochdale, Lancs.	J. Rea.
16th	Vickerstown Social Club, Vickerstown, Barrow, Lancs.	J. Rea.
17th	British Legion Club, Levenshulme, Manchester	J. Rea.
20th	Hotel Excel., Garstang, near Preston, Lancs.	J. Rea.
21st	Lamberhead Green Workmen's Club, Pemberton, Wigan	J. Rea.
24th	Saltwell Social Club, Gateshead, Co. Durham	J. Rea.

S.O.S. ★ RECORD ★ STAR

★ SHOW ★



Empire Pool, Wembley

FROM the first, before we even managed to force a way through the milling crowds and under the wheels of the coaches, we caught the tremendous air of excitement, as the crowds followed the buskers, stepping in time to the big drum.

But we were not ready for the tremendous speed and punch of the show itself, with one turn following another without any pauses or fumbling and every artist putting in the maximum of expertise and effort to make a success of the evening. Marty Wilde had the thankless task of starting off—though one can't honestly say starting cold, because the audience were already so enthusiastic. Carol Deene came next, doing very nicely in a flame-coloured chiffon dress, followed by Mike Sarne and Wendy ("Come Outside" went with a bang!). Julie Grant (of B.C.C.'s Saturday Club) put over her numbers with her usual conviction, in a wonderfully complicated cyclamen-pink short crinoline-skirt dress, and finally Helen Shapiro in silver lace, absolutely show-stopping, singing song after song, until we in the audience needed the interval for a well-earned rest.

During the interval I saw a lot of the stars, milling around in the outside promenade, giving autographs, selling the jewellery made by spastics, talking with their fans. I saw a spastic boy with an autograph book in one hand and the longest hot dog I have ever seen in all my life in the other, chatting happily to Brian Rix. There was a little old lady, sixty if she was a day, dressed all in purple, hunting autographs with a dedicated air. For herself? Surely not. For some grandchild perhaps.

The second half of the show started off quietly enough with David Jacobs asking the audience why they were late back. Alma Cogan was very much herself, in a flame-coloured floor-length crinoline gown, the feathered skirt so wide that it could have served as a marquee, picking an

David Jacobs introduced the Stars



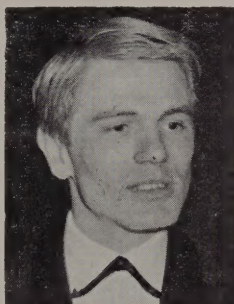
unsuspecting male out of the audience and crooning lovingly to him. Danny Williams had trouble with an out-of-order microphone and did *not* sing "Moon River". High spot of the show and finale—Adam Faith. Nearly half-an-hour, every pop song the audience screamed for and more besides, that boy gave them the lot. The screaming was so rhythmic

I began to wonder if they were doing it by numbers! Adam seemed to like it, and sang on. When he eventually departed David Jacob had some difficulty in quieting the audience.

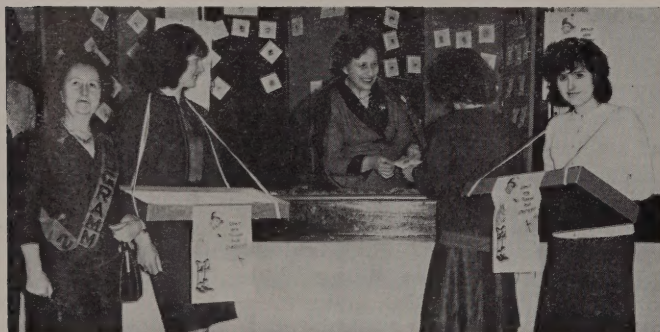
There was a spastic boy in the audience who clapped in time to the beat by pounding his left-hand down on an apparently useless right-hand which he left lying on his knee. There was a spastic girl near him who enjoyed every minute of the show, clapping, cheering, eating a choc-ice, drinking orangeade. Helen Shapiro and Alma Cogan both put in a few remarks about buying the jewellery made by spastics, and David Jacobs assured us that all the jewellery worn by the artistes on the show was of this type.

There was the party of 550 people who had come from Lowestoft (and were proud of it)—I was glad that one of their number had a "lucky programme" which entitled the holder to go behind the scenes, meet the Stars, and be presented with a long-playing record.

E. V. Nelson



Adam Faith



(Above) Programme sellers get ready beside the Home-Workers' Jewellery Stand at the Stars' Show. On the left, Mrs. Jack Howarth

ST. MARGARET'S QUEEN'S ROAD, WESTON-SUPER-MARE

St. Margaret's short-term care and holiday home provides resident accommodation for mentally handicapped and spastic children. Situated on high ground; immediate vicinity of delightful park, and within easy reach of the sea. Resident staff; full board; lift; recreation rooms and garden chalet. Residential charges eight guineas per week, inclusive. Parents unable to afford the fees are advised to apply to their local Medical Officers of Health for help. Further particulars and booking—Apply Matron (Mrs. C. Wellsted) by letter or telephone Weston-super-Mare 4258.

AFFILIATED GROUPS and Local Centres of The Spastics Society

Eastern Region

Boston District Branch
 Chesterfield and District Spastics Society **TC**
 Derby and District Branch **T**
 Grantham & District Friends of Spastics
 Grimby, Cleethorpes and District Friends
 of Spastics Society
 Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Soc. **W**
 Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics
 Society **TC**
 Lincoln Branch
 Loughborough and District Spastics Soc.
 Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics
 Group **O**
 Newark and District Friends of Spastics
 Group
 Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Assoc.
 Northampton and County Spastics Society
TE
 Nottingham and District Friends of
 Spastics Group **TEC**
 Peterborough and District Spastics Group
O
 Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society
 Stamford and District Branch
 (Regional Officer: H. G. Knight, 28
 Priestgate, Peterborough, Northants.
 Tel: 67045)

Midland Region

Cannock Chase Spastic Association
 Coventry and District Spastics Society **R**
 Dudley and District Spastic Group **T**
 North Staffordshire Spastic Association **T**
 Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group
 Stafford and District Spastic Association
 Worcester and District Branch
 (Officer to be appointed)

North-Eastern Region

Barnsley and District Association **C**
 Bradford and District Branch
 Castleford and District Spastics
 Committee
 Darlington and District Spastics Soc. **H**
 Dewsbury and District Spastics Society
 Goole and District Spastics Association
 Halifax and District Spastic Group **W**
 Huddersfield and District Spastics Soc.
 Hull Group, The Friends of Spastics
 Society in Hull and District **H**
 Leeds and District Spastics Society **O**
 Pontefract and District Spastics
 Association
 Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society
 Sheffield and District Spastics Soc. **TEOC**
 South Shields and District Spastics
 Society **C**
 Sunderland and District Spastics Society
 Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics
TE
 York and District Spastics Group **TC**
 (Reg. Off: R. J. F. Whyte, Royal
 Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate.
 Tel: 69655)

North-Western Region

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic
 and Handicapped Children's Society **C**
 Birkenhead Spastic Children's Soc. **TEC**
 Blackburn and District Spastics Group
 Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group **CW**
 Bolton and District Group **TE**
 Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics
 Group
 Chester and District Spastic Assoc.
 Crewe and District Spastics Society **TO**
 Crosby and District Spastics Society

Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness
 Spastics Society **H**
 Lancaster, Morecambe and District
 Spastics Society
 Manchester and District Spastics Soc.

TCE
 Oldham & District Spastics Society **CT**
 Preston and District Spastic Group **CT**
 Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics
 Society **RTEC**
 Southport, Formby and District Spastics
 Society
 Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak
 Spastics Society **TOC**
 Urmston and District Group **TC**
 Warrington Group for the Welfare of
 Spastics
 Widnes Spastics Fellowship Group
 (Reg. Off: T. H. Keighley, 20 Brazen-
 nose Street, Manchester.
 Tel: Blackfriars 6130)

Northern Home Counties Region

Bedford and District **TOW**
 Bishop's Stortford and District Group,
 Herts Spastics Society
 Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare
 Society **W**
 Clacton and District Group
 Colchester and District Group
 East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society
 East London Spastic Society **H**
 Epping Forest and District Branch **TO**
 Essex Group
 Harlow and District Branch
 Hatfield and District Group, Herts
 Spastics Society
 Hemel Hempstead and District Group,
 Herts Spastics Society
 Hitchin and District Friends of Spastics,
 Herts Spastics Society
 Ilford, Romford and District Spastics
 Association **O**
 Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics
 Group **T**
 Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group
 North London Area Association of Parents
 and Friends of Spastics **T**
 North-West London Group **O**
 Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society **TC**
 Reading and Berkshire Spastics Welfare
 Society
 Slough and District Spastics Welfare
 Society
 Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics
 Society **O**
 South-West Middlesex Group **T**
 St. Albans and District Group, Herts
 Spastics Society **T**
 Walthamstow and District Spastics Society
 Watford and District Group, Herts
 Spastic Society **TC**
 Welwyn Garden City and District Group,
 Herts Spastics Society
 Wycombe and District Spastics Society **T**
 (Reg. Off: R. C. Lemarie, 524 St.
 Alban's Road, North Watford. Tel:
 41565)

South-Eastern Region

Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics
 Society **CTE**
 Brighton, Hove and District Branch **TOC**
 Central Surrey Group
 Croydon and District Branch **TEWC**
 East Sussex Group **TC**
 Folkestone and District Branch **H**
 Isle of Wight Group **TE**
 Maidstone Area Spastic Group **OT**
 Medway Towns Branch
 North Hants and West Surrey Group **TEC**
 North Surrey Group **W**
 North-West Kent Spastics Group **W**
 North-West Surrey Group **TEC**
 Portsmouth and District Spastics Society
W
 Southampton and District Spastics
 Association **TOWC**
 South-East London Group **T**
 South-East Surrey Spastics Group
 (Redhill) **TO**
 South London Group
 South-West London and District Group
 South-West Surrey Group **T**
 Thanet Group
 Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area
 Group
 West Kent Spastics Society, Incorporating
 Bromley and District Spastics Group **W**
 (Reg. Off: H. J. I. Cunningham 29b
 Linkfield Lane, Redhill, Surrey)

Welsh Region (including Mon.)

Cardiff and District Spastic Assoc. **TC**
 Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society
 Conway and District Branch
 Flint Borough Spastics Association
 Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Soc. **CT**
 Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Soc.
 Montgomeryshire Spastics Society
 Pontypridd and District Group
 Swansea and District Spastics Association
CW
 (Reg. Off: B. Kingsley-Davies, 2
 Saunders Road, Cardiff.
 Tel.: 29289)

Western Region

Bath and District Spastics Society
 Bridgwater and District Friends of
 Spastics Association **T**
 Bristol Spastics Association **CTOW**
 Cheltenham Spastic Aid Association **ET**
 Cornish Spastics Society
 Exeter and Torbay Spastics Society
 Plymouth Spastic (CP) Assoc. **COETW**
 Swindon and District Spastic Society
 Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare
 Society
 (Reg. O: Mrs. A. Mansel-Dyer, St.
 John House, 60 Staplegrove Road,
 Taunton, Somerset. Tel: 81678)
 Jersey Spastic Society

Chief Regional Officer:

(A. M. Frank, M.C., M.A., 12 Park
 Cresc., London, W.1.)

Local Projects Secretary:

(D. Lancaster-Gaye, 12 Park Cresc.,
 London, W.1.)

Key:

T—Treatment Available
E—Education
O—Occupational Centre
W—Work Centre
H—Holiday Home
C—Child Care
R—Residential Centre

